

Supported housing oversight

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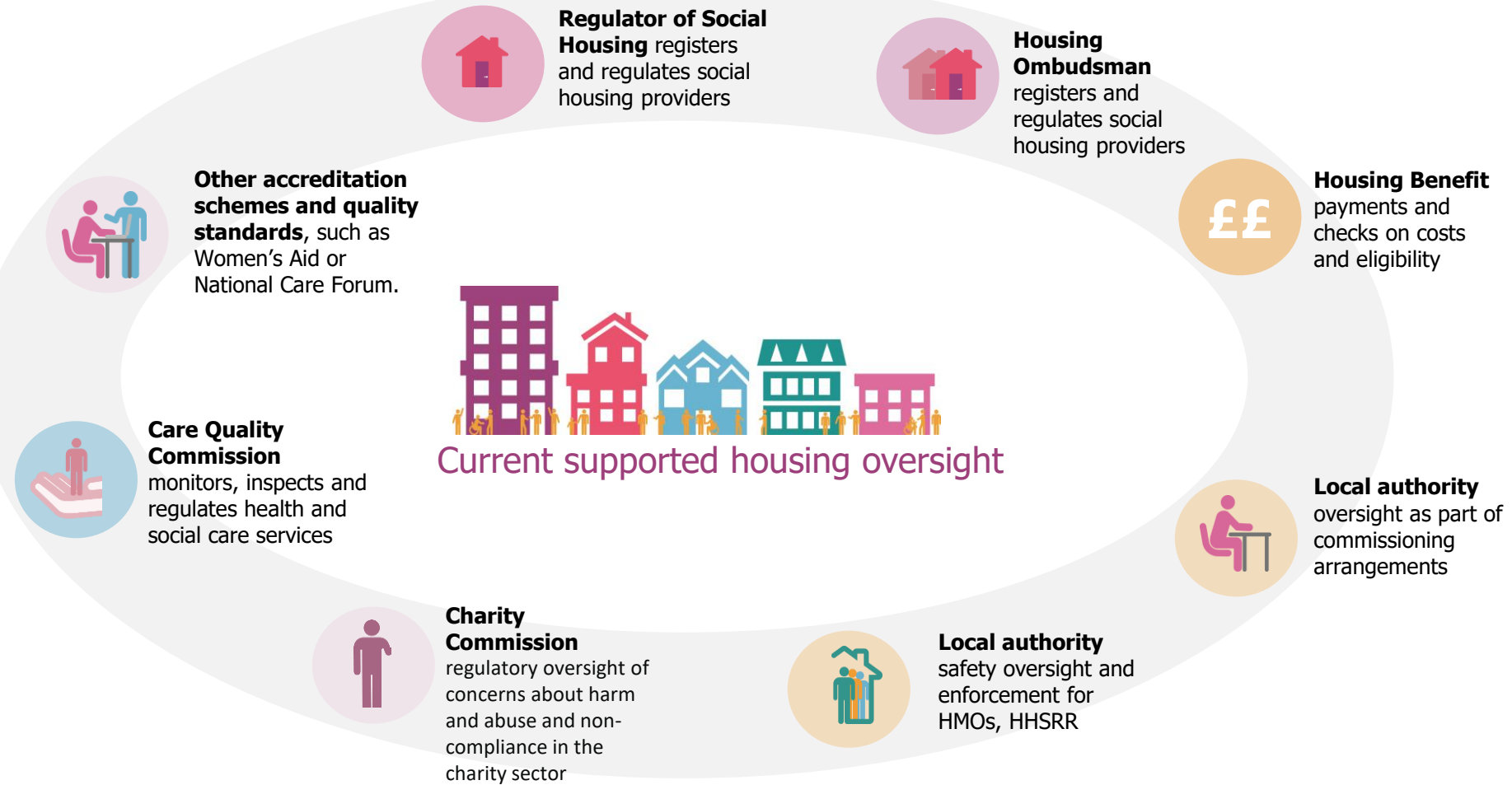


Background



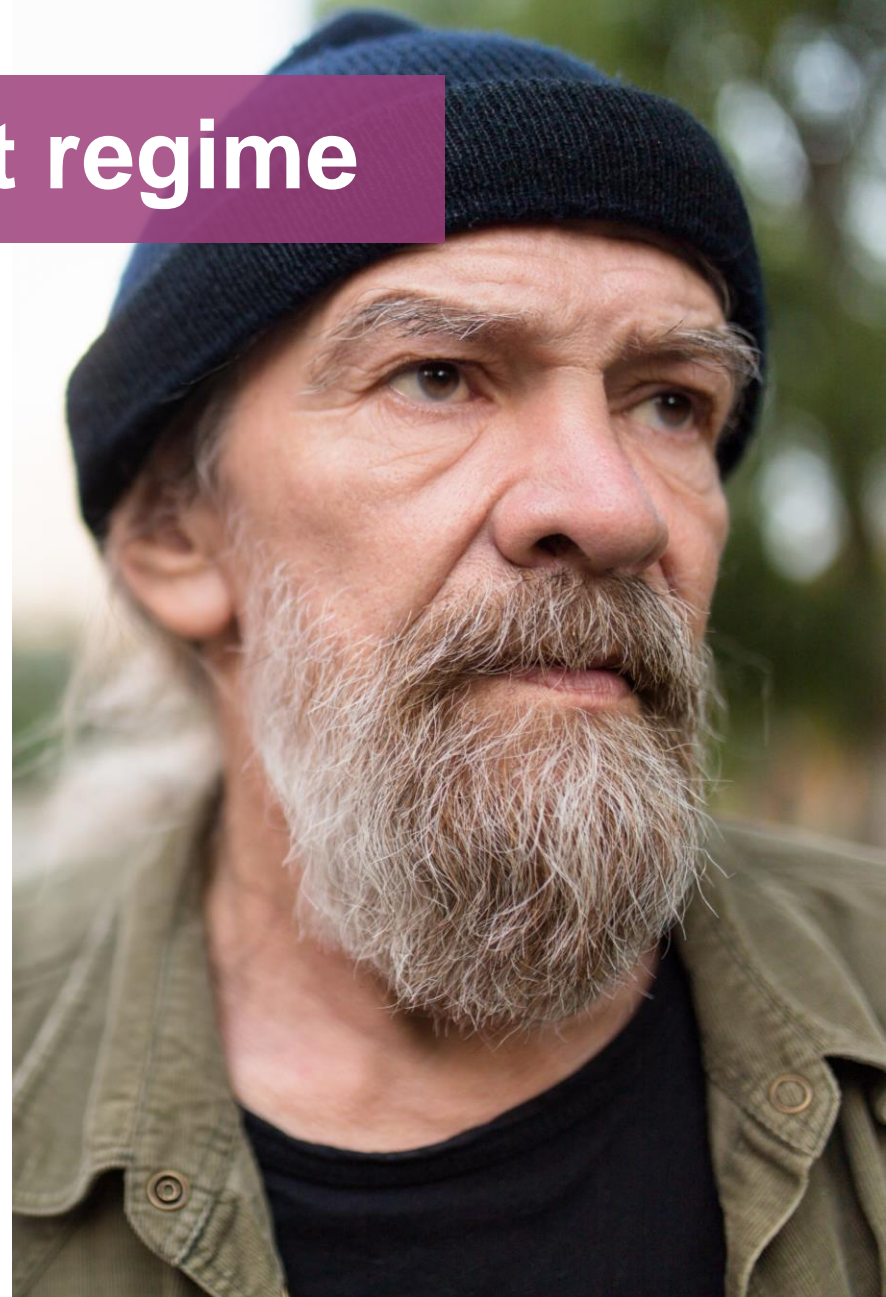
- In the foreword to the August consultation response, Ministers stated:
 - Oversight of quality and value for money must be delivered for the supported housing sector as a whole; and
 - MHCLG and DWP will jointly continue to work with providers, local authorities, membership bodies and resident representatives to put together a sound and robust oversight regime.
- **Officials are now developing policy options to meet the above objectives – engaging with the sector and local government.**
- The new oversight for supported housing will only apply to activities funded through Housing Benefit.

Existing oversight



Options for oversight regime

1. Sector-led accreditation and benchmarking scheme
2. Increased rigour around Housing Benefit eligibility and charges
3. Eligibility criteria for exempt accommodation status
4. Local authority: local licencing of providers
5. Central strategy/guidance and local strategic plans
6. Enhanced regulation by the Social Housing Regulator



Review of housing-related support

- NAO have identified a 70% reduction in LA spending on housing-related support. Anecdotally MHCLG have heard of LAs cutting funding, and raising the threshold for people to qualify for support.
- MHCLG are commissioning research shortly to help get a clear picture of recent developments with housing-related support.
- Plan is to collect evidence of LA funding reductions, but also how providers have responded – diversifying, cross-subsidies, increasing charitable income etc.
- Hope to publish tender by year end and carry out research in early part of 2019

Solutions

- Provide adequate funding on a sustainable basis so that supported housing is available to everyone who needs it.
- Respond flexibly to the diversity and complexity of people's individual needs and aspirations.
- Encourage the sector to use its expertise to implement good practice, innovate and develop to meet future demand.
- Support the commissioning of high-quality supported housing schemes that meet the current and future needs of local communities.
- Develop changes in partnership with supported housing schemes and their residents.



Next steps

- Officials will present options to Ministers in December.
- We want to make sure the Government gets this right.

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